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June 22, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Turkish IRBM's

1. This memorandum is intended to discharge the obligation which the President laid upon me when he asked that I study and report on the matter of Turkish IRBM's.
2. It has been concluded that action should not be taken to cancel projected deployment of IRBM's to Turkey.
3. This conclusion is based primarily on the view that, in the aftermath of Khrushchev's hard posture at Vienna, cancellation of the IRBM deployment might seem a sign of weakness. Moreover:
  - (a) When the Secretary of State raised this matter with the Turkish Foreign Minister at CENTO, the Turkish reaction was strongly adverse.
  - (b) When the Turkish Foreign Minister discussed the problem with SACEUR, General Norstad underlined the military importance of sending IRBM's to Turkey. This made it unlikely that any attempt to persuade the Turkish military that they should abandon this project would succeed.
4. The Secretary of State has discussed this conclusion with General Norstad, who concurs.

/s/

George C. McGhee

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